

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof which is reactive with HIV-1 neutralizing antibody 2F5 (ECACC Accession No. 90091704) and which inhibits or prevents either or both of the HIV-1 neutralization activity of antibody 2F5 and/or the binding of antibody 2F5 to gp41 of HIV-1, the fragment being an antigen-binding part of the antibody which retains the binding specificity of the whole antibody, wherein the antibody or fragment thereof is free from an amino acid sequence ELDKWA (SEQ ID NO: 1) of the core epitope of antibody 2F5, and from any equivalent variant or homologue of said core epitope selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 to SEQ ID NO: 12 wherein the antibody is anti-idiotypic to antibody 2F5 and has all characteristics of an antibody produced by hybridoma cell line 3H6 (ECACC Acc. No. 01100279).

2. (Currently amended) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, ~~which~~ wherein it inhibits or prevents binding of antibody 2F5 to proteins or peptides that comprise ~~the~~ an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 1 ELDKWA or equivalent

variant or homologue thereof, preferably selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 to SEQ ID NO: 12.

3. (Currently amended) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, ~~which wherein it~~ elicits upon administration to a mammal ~~elicits~~ Ab3-type antibodies that have either or both of an HIV-1 neutralizing activity, ~~and/or that an ability to competes~~ compete with antibody 2F5 for binding to proteins or peptides that comprise ~~the an~~ amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 1 (ELDKWA) ~~or an equivalent variant or homologue thereof,~~ preferably selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 to SEQ ID NO: 12.

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the antibody has either or both of a heavy chain variable region according to SEQ ID NO: 14 ~~and/or~~ light chain variable region according to SEQ ID NO: 15.

7. (Currently amended) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is in the form of either a chimeric mouse/human antibody ~~or a fragment thereof,~~ or a humanized version of a mouse antibody.

8. (Currently amended) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, ~~which wherein it~~ is associated, preferably coupled, linked to, ~~or fused,~~ with an immunoactive molecule, ~~more~~

~~preferably with a molecule that increases or intensifies a B cell response, and most preferably with a cytokine such as interleukin 4 (IL-4) or interleukin 15 (IL-15).~~

9. (Previously presented) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 1, for use as a screening tool or a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.

10. (Currently amended) A hybridoma cell line producing an antibody according to claim 1, the cell line being 3H6 deposited at PHLS, Porton Down, Salisbury, UK, under ECACC Acc. No. 01100279.

11. Canceled.

12. (Currently amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of HIV-1 infection, comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition or vaccine comprising ~~Use of an antibody or fragment thereof defined in claim 1, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition, particularly a vaccine, for prophylactic or therapeutic application against HIV-1 infection.~~

13. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition, ~~particularly a~~ or vaccine, comprising an antibody or antibody fragment defined in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14-18. Canceled.

19. (New) The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 8, wherein the immunoactive molecule is a cytokine selected from the group consisting of interleukin-4 (IL-4) and interleukin-15 (IL-15).